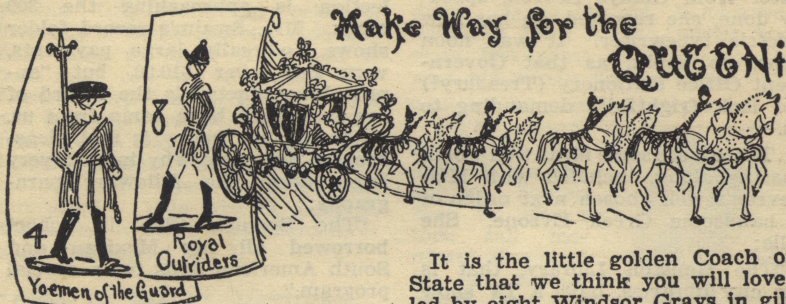


DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 9, Number 12

May - June, 1953



In what a delightful dither we—all Christendom—luxuriate, when it comes to the crowning of a beautiful young Queen! We breathe deeply that high, thin air of symbolism, as at Christmas and Easter, but as with other holy days, we moderns ask for something tangible to hold and oft recall the Day. That's not all wrong. Some of the tawdry stuff will serve as background color for the passing show; the souvenirs will soon be junk, but true mementos will long be cherished.

Here at Kimport, for a Coronation Special, we have considered so many offerings. Some turned out to be souvenir type things, some looked like toys, others were frankly too high priced. The matter of delivery, too, has been another item that worries us prompt Americans much more than it seems to our deliberate British kinsmen. Perhaps they want to be sure of goods right there to sell to those touring rich Americans this year. But, now in stock, on hand, we've one to commemorate this Coronation.

It is the little golden Coach of State that we think you will love; led by eight Windsor Grays in gilt and red trappings, four properly ridden by postilions in livery. Also, according to tradition, this is flanked by a dozen marching men, eight of whom are Royal Outriders and four, Yeomen of the Guard. You can see this makes quite an entourage; from the lead horses' noses to that magnificent gold bumper at the back of the coach, it measures 12". Height of the carriage, 2¼"; marching men, about 1½". The coloring throughout all metal parts is scarlet, flesh pink, black and white and gold. Contrasting purple velvet robes the tiny figure of the white clad Queen, who sits in solitary grandeur, in the arched recesses of her stately vehicle.

Even though figurines are not dolls, this Coronation group will spotlight attention now and for years ahead.

We hope you'll like our import choice that now is ready for your order. It's quite a precious aggregation, the Coach'n'eight, in which Elizabeth rides to become crowned Queen, twelve marching men, all included as No. 255, \$10.00.

WHITE COLLAR CONNECTIONS

Recently there was a good visit letter from Gladys Levron, speedily done, she reported, on her new electric typewriter. It was noon hour, no doubt, as that Government Office stationery (Treasury!) did look frightfully demanding to us.

There were some ideas well worth passing along, included with Miss Levron's well chosen next order of a handsome Greek Evzone. She tells:

"The Houston Library, that is the city libraries, have a TV show every Tuesday called 'Know Your Library.' I was asked to show my dolls, with Miss Ann Hornak, who is in charge of the children's room, acting as Emcee. It was lots of fun and everybody said it went off fine. Starting with my George and Elizabeth Coronation dolls, I had so many interesting things to tell about them, and also about the Christmas Carol dolls, which were second on the program. When Kimport had the dolls here several years ago—at Foley's—I bought the Christmas Carol group, about \$50.00 worth, and they have been worth their weight in gold!"

FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Alice Swaim, a Kimport customer of some twelve years' standing, recently wrote that her collection is approaching the 300 mark. Mrs. Swaim's record folder shows no really large payments, very few over \$10.00, but "approaching ninety" is the record of her dolls that have come from us.

Sharing her hobby is real pleasure, we are sure; why in that very letter were the following paragraphs:

"The Spanish Club in school borrowed all my Mexican and South American dolls for a special program."

With a list of her present representatives from Great Britain, she asks: "What other English dolls would you suggest? Our Girl Scouts want to have an exhibit at the time of the Coronation."

"Our local woman's club has a 'beauty spot' at each meeting. Several times my dolls have been featured in this. In February, Abraham Lincoln and George and Martha Washington shared this spot. Another month, a set of small ballet dancer dolls took part and at Christmas time, the Carol Singers were exceptionally popular."

BORN ON A BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Charlie Miller is a Texas gal who says she started her doll hobby Dec. 7th, 1941, remember—to the blaring radio news of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The kid brother whom she had mothered headed for war the very next day, so Mrs. M. with Texas dispatch and determination turned to a hobby that would keep her busy. She rounded up all dolls from party

favors to attic heirlooms, and we at Kimport remember the patriotic turn her collecting took to include historic portraits and we believe, a complete coverage of forty-eight state types!

In a news story of her now more-than-six-hundred, symbolic Betsy Ross with that beloved 13 star flag, is front and center of the picture.

SOUNDS FAIRYLANDISH

When Mrs. Laurence Kriger sent in for a Helen Young "Alice," she wrote: "I have been busy completing fifty fairyland settings. There is a White Rabbit; I do not have time to make Alice and it does seem sad not to include this famous story. I know Mrs. Young's doll will work out beautifully. May 16th is Club Day (for the Doll Collector's Guild). From May 17th through 23rd, open house for all interested." This will be held at the Kriger home, 181 Bamford Avenue, Hawthorne, N. J.

"AND IT SHALL RETURN"—

No wonder people pass along beautiful beads, fragments of costume jewelry and other "unusable" treasures to doll makers—to a lady like Clara Mathew, for instance, who has made many dozens of Jewel Bead dolls for Kimport.

You will be warmed with the goodwill which radiates from this little story, and perhaps fill in between Clara M.'s modest lines the unwritten "because the costuming was so fittingly made."

"About two months ago, a lady from the city came to call on us, the dolls and me. When she departed, she left her mother's doll, a precious heirloom, for me to redress. The doll was finished and sent back to the dear mother who had loved it so. This week came not a note of thanks, but this—'Mother died, but my sister and I want to send a check to your daughter in Tarsus, Turkey, as a memorial for our mother.'"

This from a stranger to another stranger, thousands of miles apart geographically, but close in understanding and goodwill.

PRE-TEDDY BEAR

This odd looking dolly may wear bib'n'tucker, but seems to have always been short of any other duds. He is an old, handcarved keepsake from Alaska, whose toes were lost some place along the way, but surely, no one would have whittled him out of trousers!

The picture came from Mrs. John Garcia, the subject having been an eleven inch tall memento cherished by her father. When he, Mr. Howard Baxter, visited their home last Christmas, Mrs. Garcia had him write down these notes for her: "In 1880 and on later, my mother's father, Captain Edward Howard, carried coal from



Nanimo, B. C., to San Francisco on his own bark, 'Remique,' (three mast, square sails on fore and main, fore and aft sail on mizzen). This doll was mine at five (1883) and mother always joked about my devotion to it until I outgrew dolls. Grandfather brought it to me from Alaskan Eskimos, with whom he traded. I remember that our glass-doored curiosity cabinet treasured countless Alaskan relics—carved walrus tusks, spears, dolls, skin kayaks or canoes."

As for a "moral," Kimport might repeat, it is usual for boys to like dolls; smart boys like collection dolls.

LATE ARRIVALS

There is seldom a dull moment around Kimport; and certainly it was a "bright" one when a big belated box arrived last month from Czechoslovakia. In it were



several dozens of the girl in full holiday costume that we had named—oh, many years ago, "Libusa." Her festive peasant dress features huge white sleeves, many lace ruffles, embroidered ribbons, full skirt that opens, apronwise behind to show a panel of black pleating. Black boots, gay printed head scarf, and there you have Libusa with her doll faced composition head, poised prettily in a wide lace

frill. Cloth body and limbs, 10" height, No. 203D, \$5.95.

Close kin to Angus and Agnes who made their kilt clad debut last Doll Talk, is fair complexioned Bridget with her Irish blue eyes and lustrous dark hair. Made of heavy latex or vinylite or whatever fine rubber product it is, the modeling is perfect—nice hands, sturdy feet, and as to the face of her, plump, "pugged" and pretty!



Seven and a half inches tall, she's really in costume; white organdie dress and apron over an Erin green overskirt, black laced bodice and scarlet cape are wool felt; green silken head scarf, and that's Bridget—fresh from Great Britain, No. 263B, \$5.00.

Peasant dress as it used to be throughout Europe is something well worth cherishing as a memory. No better way, than by hav-

ing the blithe and beautiful costumes reproduced in doll size. On Polish "Emilja" and "Sigismund" it is even wedding finery, with her velvet bodice elaborately beaded, her white apron stitched with four hues of silken braid, and a crown of flowers above her blonde hair from which half dozen splendid colors of ribbon—some painted—stream to the length of her swirling print skirt. She may be ordered alone.

why these Polish patriots have such proud names, a bit of village life and wedding customs. Quite large, good 12 inch size.

No. 903B—Man\$6.50

No. 903C—Woman\$6.50

Always a welcome "repeat" are Joan Lucas's pretty faced young folk from Wales. Mrs. Lucas had some rather serious interruptions in her doll making venture; we have been out of the boy, "Lewellen," for several months, but now



The bridegroom wears the square, beribboned cap and striped pants of old Krakow. His long white wedding coat has tassel trim, red beaded collar and a fancy belt. Both wear red (cotton) boots and have pretty molded cloth faces. Each one has that special Kimport page which tells such things as



he is back with an extra dozen "Gwenyds" to join your foreign group. Six inch dolls, all hand made but with fine professional finish; wigs, old style clothes with legendary high hats and other nice costume details.

No. 262—Welsh Boy\$3.95

No. 262A—Welsh Girl \$3.95

Smaller still, and fresh in from Italy, is wooden Pinocchio in person! What a naughty, nosey boy is he! Two and a half inches tall, he stands like a soldier at attention, arms at sides, erect as any good little lad on his round wooden base. Enameled red suit and fool's cap with banding, buttons and collar of white; he is flesh tint with black dot eyes, wide red mouth and poka dot cheeks. And the nose? It's an inserted carved splinter that lifts jauntily, almost half an inch out from his round little head. Cute as can be!



No. 763—Pinocchio.....\$0.35

Every so often the creative urge boils up afresh in Zella Layton, and she brings forth a brand spankin' new small doll, all from materials at hand. The Layton habitat is Florida. Captain Laurie, too, has an eye out for queer little dodads,

animal, mineral, and vegetable which he and the Mrs. convert into doll folk.

In their last letter, they mentioned a 49th wedding anniversary—it's been that long since their romance started as young Laurie



marched off in his new uniform of the Spanish American War.

What has all of this to do with their new "Nana Plumoso"? Well, we imagined that this dainty miss in her frock of lacquered banana leaf, looked like an old-fashioned flower girl, in attendance at an autumnal wedding. Her picturesque bonnet and basket are really little cups that grow on the end of the nut from plumoso palm. Her formal bouquet, buttons and bonnet trim are Swiss chard and mustard seeds, rose, red and green. Ballet slippers are some other lacquered seed; hands are flat little shells, fingers painted, while the head, Zella says, is a great northern bean that looks like porcelain. She paints it to look like a miniature! 3½" tall, on an auto-graphed base, quaint Nana is No. 190SX, \$2.25.

SQUAW STUFF

M. Bohaker who manages a Thrift Shop Project, has sent in several "plunder packages" to doll makers via Kimport. She writes that they are always much pleased with our allowances toward their doll collection, said collection being a lure, allure and solid satisfaction to all concerned.

"Our shop has just got a new customer for beads," we quote, "A Red Man" who repairs the suits for the I.O.R.M. and Pocahontas. I'm thrilled that he is going to make a buckskin suit, beaded with authentic designs, for my Indian Doll which I had written about.

"You can hardly picture this two hundred fifty or more pound man sitting down doing bead work, but his own suit is insured for five hundred dollars and he does beautiful work. I recently saw an exhibition of their lodge work and dances."

A HOBBY THAT SHARES

On what Flights of Fancy—into what Fields of Endeavor and over such obstacle courses—can One ride on a Hobby!

There is a hobbyist down in Florida, Mrs. Roy E. Jones, who selects one twelve-month project each year, but always the beneficiary is the same, the Renfro Valley (Ky.) Christmas party for Underprivileged Mountain Children. Mrs. Jones was born in that mountainous country—never owned a doll herself until she was nine. She knows about Christmases without presents—is determined to prevent recurrences of such tragedies. One year she made a wedding scene, another Christmas, carolers, and once she created by special request for the museum at Renfro Valley, a miniature reproduction of that famous radio program, its mountain people and its tree, to perpetuate the Renfro Valley Christmas party. All dolls look like the real characters they portray.

The Miami News of Dec. 18, 1952, gave a two column story and a four column cut to tell about last year's turn of Mrs. Jones' Hobby, her nativity scene. The Holy Family, serenely grouped, in an open front stable, is surrounded by shepherd dolls, and their sheep, but it is the Wise Men and their camels to whom the reporter, Martha Lumnus, gave most acclaim. She writes: "Mrs. Jones walked not one mile, but many, in search of the camels she designed from cotton stuffing and on which her Wise Men ride in the Christmas tableau. She visited libraries, wrote Ringling's Circus for correct height of camels (so she could scale her scene to proper propor-

tions); got Camel cigarette ads in order to copy facial expressions, but decided the Camel people are off in their "camelology." Brown camels, such as the ones in their ads, have two humps; only dromedaries, which are light tan color, have one hump."

See what we mean by these hobby riders—a tint of printer's ink must be brown to the turn, and properly comfortable saddles provided for riding camels, dromedary or hobby. Shells, gold trinkets and buttons adorn the bridles of the camels and their saddles (this, too, required endless research—to find just what these animals wore in Biblical times); bracelets, clothespins and cuff links all were brought into use when she designed the headgear of the Wise Men.

In the picture, those Three Kings do look well proportioned and wonderfully assembled. Above is a frieze of seven pretty angels, formally spaced, four with wings down to alternate with three slightly above with wings spread. The cherubs, it is reported, wear robes of parachute silk and silver foil sandals.

Mrs. Jones, in person, says this all may have grown out of her "love of scraps—not the feudin' kind"—but we know it takes more than trinkets and trifles of stuff to put such an urge into a great-grandmother. To achieve things such as her own hand-made Nativity Scene and to send "84 individually wrapped packages"—that takes Loving Heart a plenty.

DO YOU KNOW—

A Doll-a-Month adds up to 13 at cost of 12? And it's more stimulating than you can imagine. Write for Our Plan.



SPEAKING OF ANTIQUES

"Want List" customers do get special letters, with a particular doll put in hold for ten days or until time for an answer has elapsed. We much appreciate the courtesy of a quick reply—"Yes, no, or let me see it," on such special offers. Of course, Kimport has no miraculous way of bringing forth a cache of "Chelsea" pink tint chinás, job lot of Jumeaus or a batch of Brus! But we pull treasures out of many a hat, and here are some this issue that just might be on some waiting lists. They're choice.

Small size pink luster and a darling, scant 10 inches tall. The head, 2½ inches high, is beautifully painted, with bright blue eyes, and what we call the covered wagon hair style—very smooth across the top from a high point at the center of the forehead. The bottom comes straight down to little vertical curls; deep shoulders, and this one even has original old pink tint arms, which is rare. Both head and arms are perfect. I think the legs are reproductions, although they are pink tint. Nicely hand dressed in pale brocade full skirt, tight, low cut basque with fine real lace and turquoise enamel brooch. "Little Lady," No. A366, \$42.50.

Of exact type and coloring, but 15 inches tall, with 3½ inch head, is "Big Sister." Pink tint doll heads with this beautifully plain hair styling and deep sloping shoulders may date in the 1840's or 50's. They have fine red lines for upper

eyelid and red dots at the inner points of eyes and for nostrils; cheeks are beautifully blended in a matching hue. This one has old cambric body, nicely shaped and jointed, with reproduction china arms. The head is perfect. Old green check cotton frock is precious—made with tiny "laid gath-ers" and fine buttonholes, low boat neck and puff sleeves, all trimmed in a rich, multicolored cotton braid. The number, A198—\$48.00.

Like parians—with a dash of Dresdens? Most anyone admires these fair, fine textured lovelies with that touch of high glaze to enrich the smooth mat finish. "Rosa B." is such a one; her perfect head 3¾ inches high is of that controversial mould called several names, some boy, some girl, but this pale blonde with smoothly brushed-back hair, from center part is sissy frocked in old puffed organdie with much antique blue ribbon run through beading and in bows. This same bright, antique blue binds old white leather button shoes. As to the "Dresden," that's a gilt trimmed collar and necktie in blue and gold, shiny against the gathered blouse front of parian. The painting on this deep shouldered doll is done with utmost perfection. Slim parian arms from Humpty Dumpty, otherwise she well may be just as when new, some ninety years ago. No. A920, 12½ inch girl, \$72.50.

Of parian, with rose luster boots and glazed white socks, is a rare one indeed, 7¾ inches tall. There is a sad or wistful cast to her pretty features, the head and rigid body are in one, with arms wire jointed at shoulders. The face not only exquisitely modeled but painted like a miniature with separate stroke line brows and tiny white

enamel highlights in her sky blue eyes. Ball head with original light brown wig, real hair, all little ringlets. Hands cupped so the forefinger rounds to barely touch the thumb. The plump, well modeled body rounds with proper dimples, rolls and creases. Undressed, but we'd think clothing from a Blessed Event Shop might be right! No. A919, \$55.00.

There's a parian head only that needs a new and understanding owner, then what a doll it would make! Six and a half inches high, five across the shoulders, eleven in circumference, this is a darling child, back from the time when lady dolls were featured strongly. It has blown eyes of paperweight variety, originally set, of cornflower blue; ears show completely. Expression is very sweet; lips are closed; modeling is extra sharp; tumbled curls are rich blonde, dozens and dozens of them in ringlets that fall in irregular lines over the forehead. But here is where the "understanding" part comes in: Child head and throat, well down into the bust are flawless, but across the right front and left back shoulder sections it was broken; front is mended, back piece, gone. It could be expertly repaired or made up as is; with child proportioned body it would make a doll 27 inches tall. Really sweet, No. A921, \$60.00.

Like a closed mouth French bisque? Here is one different from the ordinary in that her lovely swivel head has shoulders that are smooth composition — not bisque. The arms are wood jointed and have a section at the shoulders which goes clear through under the shoulder section; legs are very chubby; old cambric body. This assembly is the original one and

is in perfect condition. Only the auburn wig is a replacement, but it is quite becoming, a high done lady style affair. Ears are pierced with a hole into the head as they lie quite flat to the head; closed mouth; nice painting, and outstanding paperweight eyes that are greenish blue. She is 15½ inches tall; beautifully dressed in old ivory embroidered net over satin. She wears old bead earrings and there is a real Honiton lace hankie fastened in one hand, one made in England by the same shop who did such things for young Victoria, more than a hundred years ago. No. A860, \$75.00.

Next a French bisque with modeled hair, rich corn yellow waves from a center part but close cropped and carelessly different on the two sides. Girl? — Boy? We rather favor the masculine interpretation. Head with large painted blue eyes, handsome features, and closed mouth is 4 inches high. Original old cambric body has small girth and sits nicely; bisque arms with cupped hands. Undressed, (girl?-boy?) 17 inches tall, perfect, pretty and a much wanted kind. No. A879, \$36.00.

From our Eleanor St. George group of very old papier-mache, that type with the wooden limbs and slender kid bodies, there are two that are right size for a mother and daughter pair. The 14-inch mother is perhaps the prettiest doll in the entire group. Her head is posed rather forward; long, slender neck, great tufts of curls at the temples, back of which the hair is pulled back in classic Grecian lines into a big braided bun at the crown of the head. Eyes are definitely turquoise blue; original finish and original queer net dress over the cambric petticoat.

We call her, "First Empire Lady"; No. A796, price, \$125.00.

Daughter, "Betsy Ann," has a more ordinary hair style, that smooth top "covered wagon" style with little sausage curls and very high forehead. She doesn't have an entirely perfect nose, although it seems not to have been bumped, but just a little off in the original modeling. But Betsy's good points are numerous, perfect old body and wooden limbs; original complexion without a dab of retouching! She is the one doll in the lot that had a paper pinned to her telling the complete history, which dates her back to the possession of a child who was born in 1811. Red calico, redingote style dress with laid gathers and funny old underwear; lace apron. No. A799, \$82.50.

Mechanicals? There are about half dozen old ones here as of today, but we'll give you "Ruthie" and "Bebe." "One in the books" is bisque and composition Ruthie who has such smooth texture, rich coloring; set on ears are pierced from front to back, blue glass flirting eyes that do make her seem like a real little girl—and—a specially made brown family hair wig with below the waist curls! That isn't all. There is a big key which fits into her left side. Wind her up, hold down on her shoulders a bit and she walks right off via clockwork. A good pair of Ruthie pictures are on Page 20 of Mrs. St. George's "Dolls of Three Centuries" (this book is \$4.50 postpaid); made after 1891 as "Germany" is on the head. Seventeen inches tall; dressed in old cotton frock, perfect condition; No. A922, \$87.50.

Bebe is the cutest little all wax thing; with inset brown eyes of that old, pupilless variety; lying in a brown wicker cart that has

sturdy blue wooden wheels with brass hubs lined in red. When the cart is pulled, this amazing baby kicks his feet and sort of rolls from side to side. There is an under-padding of blue China silk, lace edged, under the baby who is dressed in white China silk with net frilled bonnet, all original. Cute pointed nose, lovely smooth wax complexion, and one ringlet of fine blonde hair. Length over all is good 9 inches; height to the back of the cart is 6 inches. No. A705, it is \$45.00.

Frozen Charlotte? — And we'll have to stop naming more desirables until next time! Together or singly, here are two old ones with similar hair style, one blonde, the other, brunette; both in perfect condition and the same height, 4½ inches. They would make a wonderful little Tempest and Sunshine pair; dressed in old materials, dark haired Tempest has the much wanted gilt slippers and little red line bow garters. She is No. A888 at \$13.50. Pretty little Sunshine has all white feet with a suggestion of tassel modeled on in the china; No. A863 at \$13.00. Both have wide, old-fashioned hair styling.

We have been a bit "braggity" this time—offered some choice ones, but for ending here again is the offering that anyone can afford. Not reproduction—pre-war German china dolls that are:—

MORE OLD STOCK

Telling about dolls to come, those heard about, contracted, and expected, can be like the proverbial counting of unhatched chickens. Long ago we of Kimport learned to cherish the thought but desist brag-

ging until each such tantalizing transaction had reached our receiving room stage.

In Jan. Doll Talk, when we gave you the German-made glazed china heads, they were, and still are, stocked quite plentifully, ready for you to assemble by pattern into old fashioned china limbed dolls from 5" to 7" tall. The number is 613X, price \$1.25. Legs and arms were always tiny on this type; never of human proportions where your own hand can almost cover your face. Features were the same, often the eyes being twice as big as the prim, rosebud of a mouth. You well know the miniature feet upon which no one but a china doll or a dowager aristocrat of old Cathay could be expected to teeter!

How one can ramble, but back to the first paragraph, and our expected shipment of some made-up, ready-to-dress German chinas, all of early vintage, that is in regard to the bisques and compositions that succeeded German china exports. On hand to offer now, are sweet, unglazed china or white bisque girls with proper cotton bodies, china arms and legs in smooth white texture like their heads. All have black hair in that smooth, but curly, best known "low brow" style. Our stock seems large, but these old dolls are irreplaceable when present stocks are sold.

The No. is 614, 4½", \$1.00 each. \$10.00 for a dozen at one mailing.

Old stock, Germany marked, in 11½ inch, is available in limited quantity; high glaze head and brown shoes, legs and arms mat finish. Again, perfect to dress in old-fashioned styles. The sawdust stuffed bodies are pink cambric. No. 614X, \$5.00.

OF LAMBETH DELFT

The beautiful Williamsburg issue of "Antiques" (March, 1953) has one doll pictured in it, on Page 245, a doll of a kind about which we had never even heard. This doll is as homely as it is rare, looks quite a bit like an early pegged wooden, but is in "Lambeth delft." To quote in part:

"Of the various types of eighteenth century material that have been unearthed in excavations at Williamsburg, ceramics are the least susceptible to decomposition. Thus the fragments found have been tremendously helpful in establishing what wares were actually used there, quite aside from the supporting evidence of contemporary records. The Palace inventories are less illuminating, we find, for example, quantities of quite unidentified "dishes" — but many of its references may be interpreted in the light of fragments. These have shed light on other buildings as well, since excavating has been done at a number of points.

"The fragments make it clear that delftware, both English and Dutch, was well known in Williamsburg. The English learned to make this tin-enameled ware from the Dutch, who had produced it in the attempt to imitate the Chinese blue-and-white porcelain. Dutch delft tiles with designs in blue or purple were a standard article of import in the American Colonies, used for framing fireplaces, as in several rooms at Williamsburg. English delftware, in plain white or decorated in colors, is seen in greater variety, from punch bowls in the Palace ballroom to the rare doll in the Brush-Everard house."



Q. I noticed in "Speaking of Antiques," you refer to dolls circa 1875, 1895, and 1890. I have been taught an antique must be one hundred years old. Doesn't this apply to dolls?

A. This has been discussed several times in Doll Talk through the years. On government regulations, we believe the date of 1840 has more to do with things being duty free. Webster says, "anything old or oldfashioned," and that is our position on collector dolls that are no longer made.

Q. Is there a publication called "Doll Lore"?

A. Yes, the "Doll Lore" that comes to Kimport is a mimeographed, three sheet newsgram put out by the San Diego Doll Club. Allie Vigneault, its energetic editor, does a characteristically chatty job, assembling local news along with bits of general information, a State Doll story, blurbs and perhaps a poem. That's the only "Doll Lore" of which we know.

Q. Why don't you ever tell about your own collection? Hope it is not making your house burst at the seams as mine is!

A. Personally, I, Ruby Short McKim, have no doll collection, although I challenge any miser of dolls to gloat over them with more intenseness! We collect for collectors, and thus have the advantage of buying, even treasures that we could not begin to afford personally—of seeing hundreds of kinds, of owning them for a time and of passing them along to fit into your—and your collections!

Q. In my study of dolls, I came across reference to a publication called "The Doller." Where can I find out about it?

A. "The Doller" was not really a "Publication," but a friendly news letter put out by enthusiastic Miss Elizabeth MacMahon (Boston) during her tenure as corresponding secretary for the Doll Study Club.

Q. One time it seems to me you wrote that any person pictured in a certain issue of the National Geographic could be approximately copied. Is it possible for that offer to ever be given again? Within this year there have been several characters in that magazine which would make beautiful dolls.

A. 'Could be we did say something like that, although as the readers of Doll Talk know, Kimport has incessantly stressed Egyptians from Egypt, Pakistanis from Pakistan, etc. As to period costumes, historical portraits and such, we do take such assignments. For instance, a series of about ten early explorers I remember as being proud museum class.

Q. I had one good argument about Kimport. A relative told me she knew your dolls were made in St. Louis. I told her I was sure that the ones advertised as foreign folk dolls actually were made in the countries represented. Please, please, am I right?

A. Thanks, thanks, and Mrs. R., you are not only right, but upright—correct and uncorrectable! St. Louis? No, Kimport has never even handled any line made in that good midwestern town, and yes, ma'am, all of our foreigners are authentically foreign.

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

BACK TO ELIZABETH I

This clipping turned up in our files; we have not the slightest notion from what publication it was cut, but it is rather interesting—if true.

"Of course, a few dolls had been brought across the ocean by immigrant families even in the days of the first colonists. An old picture shows us one that presumably came with some little girl among the early Jamestown settlers—a doll adorned with the high ruff of the Elizabethan period.

"During Queen Elizabeth's reign, which ended in 1603, just a few years before the Jamestown Colony was founded, many dolls of real distinction and considerable artistic merit had been produced; and Elizabeth herself had been a great admirer of them. She had a collection of 132 of her own, most of them representing prominent people of her day, and all of them were carefully listed by name in a book in which she also kept the names of her friends who had dressed them for her. Thirty-two of them, however, she had dressed herself in exquisite little costumes, trimmed with expensive lace."

LOOK WHO'S HERE

It is impossible to share all of the smart remarks or even the helpful suggestions that come Kimport way. But Flo—and Joe—Wasserman of New Jersey did such a clever job of bragging about their new offspring, with some sissy celluloid dolls. In a tiny mailing carton, along with the wee pig-tailed dolly, was a shell pink card which announced:

"You may recall

We have Four Guys.

Now comes a "Doll."

Aint you surprised?"

"Tina Gale"—'Bet she falls heir to a doll collection!



Guatemalan band box, containing six go-to-market dolls less than an inch tall is one item which Kimport sells steadily. Dollies are attractive, so is the painted wooden box and the price. No. 366M, 95c.

DO YOU KNOW—

That pilgrims to Shinto Shrines in Japan buy paper "purification" dolls, ceremonial items that are not for sale otherwise?

Oh, of course Doll collectors come by them betimes.

ALL'S WELL

Sometimes running Kimport is more fun than at others; this story helped to make for one of the jollier times.

Helen Lester, who used to be a little Missouri girl, has a Kimport record dating back at least to 1937. Well, Helen has been Mrs. Kenneth Plants for over three years now, her records having followed her around to various university towns. These records, by the way, show almost a hundred dolls from us to her, the last to date being one of those Egyptian made priests with wooden heads that we advertised last Jan.-Feb. "Wooden," did I say? Yes, but this good friend, Helen, wrote back: "Mine's head is clay—and I prefer wood like you said. What's the deal? — and please, Mrs. McKim, write and clear this up."

This we did. The opaque, poster-like colors used in painting them do give a pottery effect, but some had been chipped to show wood beneath the surface. So—we remained firm. It was wood.

Helen's response was generous: "As a structural engineer, I should know the difference between clay and wood. Another lesson learned, and in the future, I promise to take the advice I frequently give my students, to not leap to conclusions."

DO YOU KNOW—

That in 1910, a French organization, translated as "Doll Trust," revived the old Fashion Doll idea, sending a petite delegation around the world as good will ambassadors?

CORRESPONDENCE
CLIPPINGS

"Antje's collection of over a hundred dolls has been exhibited many times— youth, civic, and church groups. We always have to pack the dolls carefully away again, but my husband is designing right now a show case for the dolls, with glass doors in the upper part for display and storage space underneath, with the idea of rotating the dolls at intervals. Building of a new home and also illness has kept us from adding new dolls to the collection at the rate we would like to, but we hope that in a few years we can go a little more 'hog-wild' over the beautiful selection of dolls you make available for collectors."—

—Mrs. H. Green, Iowa.

"I like the new Flora Gill Jacobs 'History of Doll Houses,' and wish I had more than one old paper doll house."

—Mrs. Wm. Ahlstrom, Ohio.

"I must say that both the Welch boy and the Portuguese girl that I received last month lived up to my expectations. I am truly delighted with them. They will be given to my young son for a birthday gift and I know he will be elated for he loves his collection more than one can realize."

—Ruth M. Kromm, California.

"I have been sick, first time sitting up for over a month. When friends come to see me, I show them my pretty, small room with doll cases and braided rugs. They seem to like the Presidents and their wives best."

—Jessie L. Woodward, N. Y.

"I thoroughly appreciate Robin, my little English wax doll. She seems to be very much at home in the glass case and looks out at the small bit of world she does see with a serenity most of us could envy. I guess we would not appreciate our fine dolls if we did not have to make a few struggles to get them."

—Mrs. Lillian S. Draper, Calif.

"Those little ones always bring out the oh's and ah's when I exhibit my dolls."

—Eva Marie Sullivan, Wisc.

"The Mark Twain children are my first order of your dolls and I'm looking forward to receiving them, excited like a child."

—Mrs. Charles Smith, New Jersey

"Please send me another copy of Janet Johl's new book. The other one I sent to a collector whom I met in Manila last fall."

—Mrs. F. S. Glendening, Penna.

"It is so nice to deal with Kimport, because of your understanding of differences in opinions, even when the customer is 'always wrong'!"

—Honore K. Awsumb, Nebr.

"My box of dolls arrived today and it was wonderful, as every Kimport box always is! The Danish guard looks smart and handsome, and the substituted wooden one was a grand surprise and interesting, too. Mother can hardly wait to make the body for my china head and parts, so you can see that the Dickson menage was a pretty satisfied one today!"

—Victoria B. Dickson, New York.

"I do enjoy so much the 'Little Country Doctor' bought from you. My husband is a Navy Doctor, now in Korea, and he has collected for me all over South America, England, Scandinavia, Europe and the Mediterranean—now the Orient."

—Mrs. A. L. Schultz, Wash.

"I am very proud of my complete set of Doll Talk. Sometimes I get them all out for an evening of looking back, and the world and its cares are forgotten. How can one grow old with dolls!"

—Amy V. Fisher, Pa.

"Even though my dolls totaled 1803 at the last counting, I must have that group of tiny wooden things for my Easter gift to me. My Christmas present—from me—was the nut shell Mexican story which has proved to be such a pleasure, so I'm glad there is still a bit of room in the curio cabinet."

—Dollie A. Merrill, Maine.

"My little nine-year-old girl has quite an interesting doll collection of old and modern ones—and in her Brownie troop we have studied about dolls the last three years. Since I am one of the leaders of this troop, I have built up quite an interesting speech on 'Dolls of Yesterday' and have six requests at present to make this talk. Thanks to your nice little magazine for a lot of help."

—Mrs. Henry A. Parker, Kansas

"People who see my latex Scotch dolls invariably think they are bisque. They are a delicate hue and really fine texture."

—Mrs. W. B. Knighton, Jr., Pa.

P. S.—Sure'n that new "Bridget" is the same! No. 236 B, \$5.00.

Standing Order For Stands

Dolls display so beautifully when mounted on correct size stands, that many collectors instruct us to always include and bill stands to fit each doll sent to them. On future orders if you would like doll stands included, let us know and we'll never fail to send them.

- No. 31A Dolls, 3 to 5 inches
30c Each
- No. 31B Dolls 6 to 11 inches
40c Each
- No. 31BX Tall Holder, 10-15"
50c Each
- No. 31C for 12" to 17" Dolls
75c Each
- No. 31D Large and Strong,
17" to 22"
90c Each
- No. 31E Big Antiques, 22"-30"
\$2.50 Each

These are the good old steel and strong wire kind. Flat bases are large enough and the stand wire tilted properly forward to make one's dolls stand firmly and straight. The wires are adjustable to the exact size. Top curves will spread for slender or chubby types.



NOT NOSEY — JUST INTERESTED

During twenty years selling dolls by mail, Kimport has built up an amazing lot of friendships, far transcending the business at hand. You have kept track of our children and grandchildren and we are interested in the well-being and goings-on of so many of you.

If you could look through our files, you would be surprised to see the various notations on your own key sheets indicating your special preferences—what you have bought through the years—what you have confided as to further ambitions in collecting. We are as interested in your dolls as you are yourself, and count it a real triumph when after much searching we can locate just the precious doll you have long been unable to get.

Now to supplement the information we already have and to put it all in form and up to date so we can work more intelligently for you, we are enclosing a preference sheet and if you care to fill it out and send it in, we'll gladly carry it in your file. You may be surprised yourself how extensive your wants still are. No obligation, of course. Just more helpful letters from us to you. Thanks!

YOU CAN DO A DOUBLE FAVOR: If you will send us the names of any doll collectors you know, we'll quickly check them against our own lists and if they are new to Kimport we'll send them free a sample copy of Doll Talk, as well as a list of available dolls, books, and stands.

SEND ALL ORDERS TO:
KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.